**Industrial status to agriculture sector**

1614. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give industrial status to the agriculture sector so that it could develop in its full dimension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by what time it is likely to be done;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the scheme of Government to boost production in the agriculture sector in 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Government seeks to bestow on the agriculture sector as many benefits as possible similar to those obtaining in the manufacturing sector, such as easy availability of credit and other inputs and infrastructure facilities for development of agriculture sector including marketing and post harvest management.

(e) To enhance agriculture production and productivity, the Government is running in different States and UTs many important programmes and schemes such as Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Coconut, Technology Mission on Horticulture in North East States including Sikkim, Uttaranchal, and Jammu & Kashmir, On-Farm Water Management in Eastern India, integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize and Macro Management which covers production programmes for cereals, sugarcane, jute, horticulture products, watershed development, soil and water conservation and schemes for cooperatives.

**Expensive treatment and medicine**

†1615. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURU MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with treatment getting increasingly expensive in the country, common man has to spend 82.2 per cent of his pocket money on medicine and treatment;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.